



**A. Ralph Mollis**

Secretary of State  
State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

June 1, 2011

Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Genachowski and Commissioners:

As Secretary of State, I have made open access to government and assisting business growth through technology a cornerstone of my administration.

The Secretary of State's office works with almost every company registered to do business in Rhode Island. The office oversees recording commercial liens, implements protections for corporate trademarks, provides information to start-up businesses and is the gateway to open government.

We have made technology and online capabilities such as our new e-commerce tools and web-based master regulatory application for small business available to Rhode Island businesses in real time. We have also upgraded our online information on activities at all levels of government – using technology to make government more open and accessible through our website and email updates.

As you analyze the proposed merger between T-Mobile USA and AT&T that is before you, I urge you to take into consideration the positive aspects that broadband expansion will have on the types of services we are providing to Rhode Islanders.

This merger will expand the reach of broadband applications to more citizens and small businesses. Expanded coverage and faster service will benefit the economy by providing technologies that help grow and nurture new and existing businesses.

Enabling more businesses and citizens to take advantage of our online capabilities will be a boon to the Rhode Island economy and will foster more accessible and open government.

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Providence, RI 02903  
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I urge you to take these positive components into consideration in your review of this proposed merger.

Sincerely,

A. Ralph Mollis  
Secretary of State  
State of Rhode Island

CC:

Chairman Julius Genachowski  
Commissioner Michael Copps  
Commissioner Robert McDowell  
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn  
Commissioner Meredith Attwell Baker

